

61-7136

15 September 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Appearance before the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy - 14 September 1961

1. Dr. Seoville, accompanied by [] and John S. Warner, appeared before the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy on Thursday, 14 September 1961, beginning at approximately eleven o'clock and running until one o'clock. A transcript was taken by the Committee reporter. Present from the Committee were:

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Representative C. Holtfield, Chairman

Senator John O. Pastore
Senator Clinton P. Anderson
Senator Bourke B. Hickenlooper
Senator Henry M. Jackson
Senator George D. Aiken
Senator Wallace F. Bennett
Senator Henry Dworshak

Representative Melvin Price
Representative Wayne L. Aspinall
Representative James E. Van Zandt
Representative Craig Hosmer
Representative Albert Thomas
Representative William H. Bates
Representative Thomas G. Morris

Members of the staff present were:

James T. Ramey
John T. Conway
Edward J. Bauser
George Murphy

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2. In fact, the principal briefing was done by [] General Rodenhauer and Doyle Northrup - on the Soviet test series. Additionally, Commissioner Seaborg of AEC then briefed on the U. S. plans for nuclear tests. Dr. Scoville supplemented the testimony in several respects. Dr. Scoville discussed the objectives of the current Soviet test series, utilizing SNIE 11-11 which he referred to as having been furnished to the Committee this morning. Northrup discussed each of the Soviet shots including the most recent one which had been set off at approximately six o'clock this morning (EDST). He discussed characteristics of the various shots including some indications of where we are lacking data and pointed out that in most cases conclusions were tentative since full analysis had not been completed.

3. Commissioner Seaborg read into the record a letter which he had sent to the Chairman dealing with plans for U. S. tests which had been approved by the President. These will not be repeated since in the letter itself Seaborg pointed out the President wanted the highest degree of security.

4. There was some questioning as to whether or not the U. S. was doing everything possible to detect the Soviet shots and the Chairman inquired if additional funds were needed. Rodenhauer said he had received the finest cooperation from the Pentagon and had been given direct access in his efforts to expand and improve the detection system.

5. As indicated above, most of the information which Dr. Scoville would have given had already been covered; consequently, his testimony was most limited and there were no important or controversial questions raised with the Agency.

s/ John S. Warner
JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel

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